**E-Fields PhET Lab, rvsd 2011**

**Introduction:** It can by rationalized that the most important concept in physical science is like things \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while opposite things \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When working with static electric charges, like charges \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while opposite charges \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These charges can be as large as clouds of ionized gas in a nebula one million times the size of the earth, or as small as protons and electrons. The rule remains the same. In this lab, you will investigate how a charge creates a field around itself and how test charges behave when placed in that field.



**Important Formulas:**   

k = 9.00 x 109 Nm2/C2

Procedure Part I: *Electricity, Magnets, and Circuits 🡪 Charges and Fields* 

* Place a 1 nC (nanoCoulomb) positive charge and E-Field sensor in the test area. Click  to observe the field lines in the E-field. Observe the sensor’s arrow as you drag it around the in the field.
* The sensor’s arrow illustrates the **force** of attraction or repulsion at a point in an electric field.
* Replace the positive charge with a negative point charge. To remove charges, drag them back into their box.

By convention, field arrows point \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a positive charge and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a negative charge.

As the sensor gets closer to a point charge, the field strength created by that field \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Click on *show numbers* and *tape measure* to measure the distances from a a field-creating charge to a test charge. The tape measure can be dragged to a specific distance and placed anywhere on the field.
* When measuring field strength, click  to show **lines of equipotential**.
* Complete the table below using a single positive or negative charge:

Test charge distance, m Field strength, V/m Potential at location, V

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 m |  |  |
| 2.5 m |  |  |
|  | 1.1 V/m |  |
| 4.0 m |  |  |

* Add at least three charges, using both positive and negative charges. Move the voltage meter around and *plot* the lines of equipotential. Plot at least ten lines.
* Sketch the multi-charge system here:
* Show the value of the potential on each line of equipotential.

Procedure Part II: *Electricity, Magnets, and Circuits 🡪 Electric Field Hockey* 

* So, using that wonderful principle that opposite charges \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while like charges \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ play a little *Electric Field Hockey*.
* Setup your charges and go for the goal.
* Turning on the *Field* and *Trace* may make things a little easier.
* *Reset* the simulation to try again, with your charges in place.
* Challenge the other members of your lab group to duels.
* Challenge other lab groups. (no hockey fights please.)
* Try to use less than 12 charges total. (how few can you use?)

**Conclusion Questions and Calculations:**

1. Closer to a point charge, the electrostatic field created is *stronger / weaker*.
2. Placed exactly between two **oppositely** charged point charges, a test charge (the sensor) will show *zero /* *minimum / maximum* force (N) or field strength (N/C).
3. Placed exactly on a point charge, the sensor will show *zero / minimum / maximum* field strength.
4. The point charges used in the simulation are ± 1.0x10-9 C (**n**ano**C**oulomb). If two such positive charges are placed 2.0 m away from each other, the force between them would be... (use formula) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*SHOW WORK HERE:*

1. What is the magnitude of the electric field produced 2.0m away from **one** of the charges? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*WORK HERE:*

1. A test charge of 4.5 C in a field of strength 2.2 N/C would feel what force? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*WORK:*

1. What is the value of the electric field when a -9.6 V potential is found 1.4 m from its center? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*WORK:*

1. What is the electrostatic potential found **.**68 m from the center of a 2.3 V/m field? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*WORK:*

1. A balloon is electrostatically charged with 3.4 μC (microcoulombs) of charge. A second balloon 23 cm away is charged with -5.1 μC of charge. The force of *attraction / repulsion* between the two charges will be:

*WORK:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. If one of the balloons has a mass of 0.084 kg, with what acceleration does it move toward or away from the other balloon?

*WORK:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Write a conclusion paragraph about improvements, what you have learned, and 3 questions to add to the activity.**